

From: Preston Whiteway [mailto:pwhiteway@theoneill.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 2:42 PM
To: Sen. LeBeau, Gary
Cc: Sen. Stillman, Andrea
Subject: Eugene O'Neill Theater Center - Thank you

Dear Senator LeBeau:

My deep thanks for your time this morning in the Commerce Committee hearing, and for the time to speak about the O'Neill's bonding proposal (SB 123; \$8 Million over two years).

As both Sen. Stillman and I mentioned in our testimony, the project is shovel ready, and is a onetime investment in the O'Neill, which would provide us the means for decades of self-sufficiency. The undergraduate training program in musical theater that would be launched as a result would spin off over \$1.2 Million in additional revenue for the O'Neill each year, growing our budget by one-third, and adding significantly to our operating reserves and endowment.

The project would also be a major feather in Connecticut's cap, as no comparable program exists in the world, yet the demand for this training is extraordinarily high. Hundreds of undergraduates would be studying at the O'Neill every year, before going on to acclaim in New York, Los Angeles, or London. Connecticut would be THE PLACE for top quality theater training as an undergraduate – not Michigan, California, or even New York.

Again, thank you for your time. You are welcome to join us as my guest for a production this summer on our stunning grounds overlooking the Atlantic, Fishers Island, and the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely yours,
Preston

Preston Whiteway
Executive Director

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